

Clemson University

TigerPrints

Thomas Green Clemson Papers, Mss 2

Manuscript Collections

2-20-1857

Letter written by James E. Calhoun, 1857 February 20

Follow this and additional works at: <https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/tgc>

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyright law (Title 17, U.S. code). Use of these materials beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law.

For additional rights information, please contact Kirstin O'Keefe ([kokeefe \[at\] clemson \[dot\] edu](mailto:kokeefe@clemson.edu))

For additional information about the collections, please contact the Special Collections and Archives by phone at 864.656.3031 or via email at [cuscl \[at\] clemson \[dot\] edu](mailto:cuscl@clemson.edu)

Recommended Citation

"Letter written by James E. Calhoun, 1857 February 20" (1857). *Thomas Green Clemson Papers, Mss 2*. 481.

<https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/tgc/481>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Manuscript Collections at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in Thomas Green Clemson Papers, Mss 2 by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact kokeefe@clemson.edu.

San Francisco
Feb 20th 1857

My dear Sir

I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 20th Dec by our last mail & avail myself of a few few moments before the departure of the steamer today to answer it. I fear from your letter that you are under the impression that I am afflicted with general ill health, of which I wish to disabuse your mind, although I have suffered severely from an attack of Pneumonia & have somewhat tardily recovered from some of the most natural effects of the disease. Yet I find my constitution unimpaired & my general health strengthening under the influence of this climate, & I am of the opinion that I have fair prospects of becoming stout & permanently healthy. The sickness I have had in this country I can trace directly to some act of imprudence, which I can find

against in future to a great extent,

I regret much to learn of the condition of John's health & most earnestly hope for his speedy recovery, from what you state of his symptoms, I think he most requires pure exercise in the open air of such a climate as would not tax too much his physical power,

It gives me great pleasure however to hear of the good health of the balance of the family & of Florida's improvement & promise. Situated as I am with seldom opportunities of personal communication with my relations & at a great distance from them it gives me peculiar pleasure to have cheerful tidings from them & I regard such as a great satisfaction in life.

I receive from your letter that you are discouraged with the prospects of farming where you are, & speak of abandoning it for a more lucrative occupation - I am not surprised at your view of it & have no doubt your conclusion is the result of a fair trial.

Since you have given me an opportunity of knowing somewhat your desires, I will take

this occasion to suggest you a plan of operations
which will result in handsome pecuniary returns &
I think will meet your approbation. I feel
assured from a pretty well acquaintance with
your habits & tastes that Cal. at least for
some years yet, will not suit you to live
in, but you have it in your power of making
it a most advantageous field for operations
without interfering with your enjoyments in life,
for which you are only required to take some
proper & I deem entirely practicable steps -
My time is too limited to go into as I desire,
any thing like an extensive explanation of
the tendency of things on this Coast, or of throwing
out just the inducements for the steps I will
advise to take, what I would advise you
to do is instead of coming to Cal. in
a Govt. capacity is to go to some part of Europe,
the part you are the best judge of as to suit-
ableness to attain the object) in fact, even if
be a Consulate. Your acquaintance with
Capitalists in Europe & practical knowledge
of Mineraology will enable you to establish
confidence in some of the remarkable resources

that are being daily developed in this State,
of which my position here & the communications
between us can enable us to take great
advantage of - It is this lack of confidence
in the statements of parties by mere strangers
here whose characters have no indorsement,
that has led to distrust in the minds of foreign
capitalists in every thing Californian, & prevented
an abundant flow of their capital to the State -

They can be made to recognize the true condi-
tion of things & inspired with confidence - Independ-
ent of vast general resources with which
this State abounds. The Supreme Court of this
State has within a few days just passed, given
a decision the result of which will open a
new, important & attractive field for capitalists.

In 1841 Congress passed a law donating to each
State then forming the Union & to every State thereafter
admitted, 500,000 acres of land of the public
domain to be selected in the manner designated
by their respective legislatures, & within its own
limits, this State has under this law provided
for the selection in blocks of 160 & 320 acres
by locations made by individual owners &
holders of warrants issued for the purpose,
& purchased at a price of \$2. per acre. This

Feb. 20, 1857

decision makes these warrants locate the
up on the Mineral as well as agricultural
land in the State - This is an important
fact unknown till this decision & if taken
advantage of in time may with little trouble
& expense enable persons to acquire title to
Mineral land of immense value,

I am acquainted with some gentlemen here
of extensive & general knowledge of rich quartz
veins of gold & will probably start on Sunday
next to make some locations.

I am obliged to stop abruptly here as
the mail prematurely closes in a few
minutes. As I have written thus far will
send this by horse & give you the balance
of the next mail. I send this forth with
in this condition with the hope that you
will give the subject your grave con-
sideration. You may be certain of its
importance as I shall in my next hope
to convince you of -

Give my love to all with you
& to Patrick in Washington when

When you see him -

Very affectionately
J. Jackson

San Francisco

Feb. 20, 1857

San Francisco